

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 SAM-01

OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 XMB-02

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /107 W
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O 290918Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1207

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11440

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ID, JA

SUBJ: INDONESIA-JAPAN LNG TRANSPORTATION

REF: STATE 187414

1. CHARGE LEFT TALKING POINTS PAPER BASED ON REFTEL WITH MOFA DEPUTY MINISTER YOSHINO WHO INDICATED THAT HE APPRECIATED USG CONCERNS EXPRESSED THEREIN. ALTHOUGH NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED ON JAPANESE SIDE BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY, MOFA STAFFER (KAGAMI OF FIRST ECONOMIC COOPERATION DIVISION) WAS THOROUGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON LATEST DETAILS OF NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING USG ATTITUDE. (KAGAMI HAD A TELEGRAM FROM WASHINGTON APPARENTLY OUTLINING USG POSITION) YOSHINO DIRECTED KAGAMI TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY WAY JULY 31 DEADLINE COULD BE SLIPPED TO ALLOW NEGOTIATORS TIME TO WORK OUT COMPROMISE. HE SAID HE HOPED NEGOTIATORS COULD TAKE A COOLER VIEW OF THE TOTAL PICTURE, AND SPECIFICALLY RAISED CONCERN THAT THE ISSUES NOT SPILL OVER TO AFFECT OVER-LL US-JAPAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

2. DUE TO PERSONNEL SHIFTS TAKING PLACE IN MITI THIS WEEK, CHARGE
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WAS UNABLE TO GET APPOINTMENT WITH SIMILARLY HIGH RANKING MITI OFFI-

CIAL. BUT EMBOFF MADE COMPLETE PRESENTATION TO OFFICER IN CHARGE OF OVERSEAS ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (OCHIAI) IN ENERGY AGENCY. AFTER RUNNING THROUGH LEGALISTIC PRESENTATION OF NEGOTIATING ISSUES, OCHIAI ASSURED US THAT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF MITI WERE AWARE OF USG CONCERNS. HE SAID THE GOJ HAD RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON REPORTING PRESENTATION ON THIS SUBJECT BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY EDMOND.

3. ALTHOUGH OCHIAI SAID - A LITTLE DISINGENUOUSLY - THAT MITI'S ROLE WAS LIMITED TO MONITORING THE NEGOTIATIONS, HE ASSURED US THAT EVERY EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO PREVENT NEGOTIATIONS FROM COLLAPSING. NEVERTHELESS JULY 31 DEADLINE WAS FIRM. HE POINTED OUT THAT PERTAMINA HAD AGREED TO DEADLINE AS A CONDITION FOR AT LEAST FIRST TRANCHE ON COST OVER-RUN LOAN. HE LEFT ROOM, HOWEVER, FOR COMPROMISE, CITING POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS IN FREIGHT CHARGES AS AN EXAMPLE. OCHIAI PROMISED TO KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED.

4. COMMENT. NEITHER MOFA NOR MITI MENTIONED LNG SHIPS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN JAPAN. YOSHINO WAS GENUINELY SYMPATHETIC TO CHARGE'S PRESENTATION, BUT MITI REPRESENTATIVE TOOK A HARDER LINE. WE HOPE THAT FOREIGN OFFICE ATTITUDE WILL BE INFLUENTIAL, BUT AT THIS POINT WOULD CAUTION AGAINST OPTIMISM.
SHOESMITH

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